

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining generally planar opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion, and a border portion;

a perforated, skin adherent facing layer secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the distal surface of the absorbent core, said backing layer defining at least one compliant element disassociated and freely extending from the distal planar surface of the absorbent core;

wherein a periphery of the compliant element is inwardly spaced from peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

2. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one compliant element corresponds to an intermediate portion of the absorbent core interposed between the border and central portions thereof.

3. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the compliant element includes at least one ridge concentric with the periphery of the absorbent core and extending outwardly relative to the distal surface of the absorbent core.

4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 3, wherein the at least one ridge of the compliant element is configured to extend outwardly relative to the distal surface of the absorbent core when said wound dressing has absorbed a maximum amount of moisture content resulting in saturation of the absorbent core.

5. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core contains a plurality of discrete portions of at least one moisture absorbent material.

6. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 5, wherein when said wound dressing is in a dry state, a central portion of the backing layer corresponding to the central portion of the absorbent core is adhered to the distal surface of the absorbent core; and

wherein the connection between the central portions of the backing layer and the absorbent core is configured so as to permit detachment of the backing layer from the absorbent core and the formation of a reservoir therebetween as said absorbent core and the absorbent material absorb moisture.

7. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is secured to the border portion of the absorbent core.

8. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core includes a pattern of at least one receptacle containing a discrete portion of at least one absorbent material.

9. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core is hydrophilic foam.

10. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core is a non-woven material.

11. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the facing layer is a discrete silicone sheet.

12. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 8, wherein the silicone sheet is only bonded to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

13. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is selected from the group consisting of latex rubber, silicone film, polyurethane film and polyethylene film.

14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the backing layer is stretchable to the extent that a 75% elongation without rupture is produced when the wound dressing is saturated with moisture.

15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 5, wherein the at least one absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

16. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein at least one compliant element is disposed along the border portion of the absorbent core.

17. (Withdrawn) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein at least one compliant element is disposed along the central portion of the absorbent core.

18. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is sealed along the border portion of the absorbent core.

19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core contains a plurality moisture absorbent particulates freely enmeshed therein.

20. (New) A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining generally planar opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the absorbent core, and defining a border portion having a periphery corresponding to a periphery of the absorbent core, a central portion spaced inwardly from the border portion, and a compliant element dividing the central and border portions, wherein the central and border portions of the backing layer are contiguous with the distal planar surface of the absorbent core, and the compliant element is disassociated from the distal surface of the absorbent core so as to extend freely therefrom.

21. (New) A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining generally planar and opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the distal surface of the absorbent core, said backing layer defining a compliant element disassociated from the distal surface of the absorbent core, and inwardly spaced from a periphery of the absorbent core;

wherein the compliant element has a profile generally corresponding in shape to the periphery of the absorbent core.

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22. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein a periphery of the complaint element is uniformly spaced from the periphery of the absorbent core.